



## **FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**[OMB 3060-0204, OMB 3060-1231; FR ID 129898]**

### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or the Commission) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Comments are requested concerning: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and ways to further reduce the information collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees. The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

**DATES:** Written PRA comments should be submitted on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all PRA comments to Nicole Ongele, FCC, via email [PRA@fcc.gov](mailto:PRA@fcc.gov) and to [nicole.ongele@fcc.gov](mailto:nicole.ongele@fcc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information about the information collection, contact Nicole Ongele, (202) 418-2991.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**OMB Control Number:** 3060-0204.

**Title:** Special Eligibility Showings for Authorizations in the Public Safety Pool (47 CFR 90.20(a)(2)(v) and 90.20(a)(2)(xi)).

**Form Number:** Not applicable.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Respondents:** Individuals or households and business or other for-profit.

**Number of Respondents and Responses:** 2 respondents; 2 responses.

**Estimated Time per Response:** 0.25 – 0.75 hours.

**Frequency of Response:** One-time reporting requirement.

**Obligation to Respond:** Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority for the collections of information is contained in Sections 154(i), 161, 303(g), 303(r), 332(c)(7).

**Total Annual Burden:** 1 hour.

**Total Annual Cost:** No Cost.

**Privacy Act Impact Assessment:** Yes. The information collection in 47 CFR 90.20(a)(2)(v) affects individuals, and there is a system of records that covers it (FCC/WTB-1, Wireless Services Licensing Records).

**Nature and Extent of Confidentiality:** Requests to withhold information submitted to the Commission from public inspection will be treated in accordance with section 0.459 of the Commission's rules.

**Needs and Uses:** The Commission collects this information to ensure that certain non-governmental applicants applying for the use of frequencies in the Public Safety Pool meet the eligibility criteria set forth in the Commission's rules.

**OMB Control Number:** 3060-1231

**Title:** Section 90.20 (xiv), Public Safety Pool.

**Form Number:** N/A.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Respondents:** Business or other for-profit entities, and state, local, or tribal government.

**Number of Respondents:** 2 respondents; 2 responses.

**Estimated Time per Response:** 1 hour.

**Frequency of Response:** One-time; on occasion reporting requirement and third party disclosure requirement.

**Obligation to Respond:** Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority for these collections are contained in Sections 1, 2, 4(i), 4(j), 301, 303, 316, and 337 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151, 152, 154(i), 154(j), 301, 303, 316, and 337.

**Total Annual Burden:** 2 hours.

**Total Annual Cost:** No Cost.

**Privacy Act Impact Assessment:** No impact(s).

**Nature and Extent of Confidentiality:** There is no need for confidentiality with this collection of information.

**Needs and Uses:** On August, 23, 2016, the Federal Communications Commission released a Report and Order, FCC 16-113, PS Docket No. 15-199 that modified Part 90 of the Rules Private Land Mobile Radio Services. The amended rule revises the Part 90 eligibility rules to permit railroad police officers to access the interoperability. Specifically, the Commission modified Section 90.20(xiv) to provide that:

(xiv)(A) Railroad police officers are a class of users eligible to operate on the nationwide interoperability and mutual aid channels listed in 90.20(i) provided their employer holds a Private Land Mobile Radio (PLMR) license of any radio category, including Industrial/Business (I/B). Eligible users include full and part time railroad police officers, Amtrak employees who qualify as railroad police officers under this subsection, Alaska Railroad employees who qualify as railroad police officers under this subsection, freight railroad employees who qualify as railroad police officers under this subsection, and passenger transit lines police officers who qualify as railroad police officers under this subsection. Railroads and railroad police departments may obtain licenses for the nationwide

interoperability and mutual aid channels on behalf of railroad police officers in their employ. Employers of railroad police officers must obtain concurrence from the relevant state interoperability coordinator or regional planning committee before applying for a license to the Federal Communications Commission or operating on the interoperability and mutual aid channels.

(1) Railroad police officer means a peace officer who is commissioned in his or her state of legal residence or state of primary employment and employed, full or part time, by a railroad to enforce state laws for the protection of railroad property, personnel, passengers, and/or cargo.

(2) Commissioned means that a state official has certified or otherwise designated a railroad employee as qualified under the licensing requirements of that state to act as a railroad police officer in that state.

(3) Property means rights-of-way, easements, appurtenant property, equipment, cargo, facilities, and buildings and other structures owned, leased, operated, maintained, or transported by a railroad.

(4) Railroad means each class of freight railroad (*i.e.* Class I, II, III); Amtrak, Alaska Railroad, commuter railroads and passenger transit lines.

(5) The word state, as used herein, encompasses states, territories and the District of Columbia.

(B) Eligibility for licensing on the 700 MHz narrowband interoperability channels is restricted to entities that have as their sole or principal purpose the provision of public safety services.

To effectively implement the provisions of the new Rule, no other modifications to existing FCC rules are required. The changes are intended to simplify the licensing process for railroad police officers and ensure interoperable communications. The modified rules provide a benefit to public safety licensees by ensuring that only railroad police officers with appropriate governmental authorization can operate on the interoperability and mutual aid channels during emergencies. This will provide the additional benefit of promoting interoperability with railroad police officers by eliminating eligibility as a gating factor when licensing spectrum. *The Report and Order*

reduces the burden on railroad police by allowing them to meet eligibility standard by requiring employers of railroad police officers to obtain concurrence from the relevant state interoperability coordinator or regional planning committee before applying for a license to the Federal Communications Commission or operating on the interoperability and mutual aid channels. Compliance with this requirement is already a requisite for public safety eligibility to use the interoperability and mutual aid channels, consequently any new burden imposed by this requirement would be minimal.

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.**

**Katura Jackson,**

Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2023-04752 Filed: 3/7/2023 8:45 am; Publication Date: 3/8/2023]